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The Man Behind "the Lady from Hancock"

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When Men Entertain

by Sylvia Noid, F.N. 6

With no cash and no self-consciousness, three geology students have unearthed the secret of entertaining. John, Jim, and Mike, who spend a 72-hour week examining fossils and rocks, looked forward to Sunday evening, when they could show off their bachelor quarters and cooking talents to admiring home economics graduate students.

The scene is the downstairs apartment of a somewhat rundown, brown and white, frame house on the main street of college town. Here the men share expenses, housework, and each one's cooking speciality. Their regular companions are two unhouse-broken, teeth-cutting puppies.

John drew the short straw this Sunday evening and proudly prepared his one and only recipe — spaghetti. No home economics hands in this dish! It was proof that geology students know more than the depth of the Great Plains oil deposits. The secret of the tangled treat seemed to be the number of pots and pans: into the preparation went a saucepan, an iron skillet, and a dented aluminum kettle. Then came a box of spaghetti mix, a can of prepared spaghetti, and a pound of ground beef. The end product of this seemingly confusing formula was a beautiful mound of spaghetti with spicy tomato sauce trickling down the sides.

The blue pottery bowl of spaghetti was centered on the kitchen table — a round board balanced on six cement blocks. Catsup spots from the cloth below peeked up through the plastic table cover. Circling the outer edge of the table were five dinner plates — one yellow, one blue (with cracks), and three daintily flowered. Unmatched silver leaned beside the plates, and bachelor-size paper napkins were piled at one end of the buffet table.

Jelly and peanut butter glasses of milk and green glass mugs of foamy-topped instant coffee were handed by the host as the guests stepped to the living room. Sinking into a comfortable couch or overstuffed chair, and placing plates on four-legged wooden stools, the group prepared for a filling meal and a relaxing evening of planned entertainment . . . four hours of hair-raising adult westerns.

To show their appreciation and, perhaps, take a break from "good guys vs. the bad guys" shows, the properly-trained home economists attempted to wash dishes. There were no dishtowels, so it was necessary to turn to nature's oldest form of drying — air.

After two more hilarious hours of watching TV, the girls dashed through pouring rain to the host's compact car, and were delivered back to the reality of study.

The Man Behind "the lady from Hancock"

by LaVeda Jansonius, H. JI. 4

"I have three pieces of advice if you decide to run for county representative. First, work hard at your job. Second, don't get angry when you hear something you don't like. And finally, if you lose — either the election or any issues in legislature — be a gracious loser."

* * *

This advice from her husband gave Mrs. Lenabelle Bock of Garner, Iowa, (Hancock county) the courage to run and be elected representative to the Iowa legislature. With her husband's backing, she felt she could win the confidence of her constituents.

More than once, "the lady from Hancock" (as she is addressed in the legislature) has needed her husband's assistance in her role as homemaker in politics.

After she was appointed to the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Committee, Mrs. Bock made a frantic call home. "I don't know anything about the trucking industry! You'll have to tell me everything I need to know this week-end. How can I serve on a committee I know nothing about?"

Mrs. Beck was one of four women legislators who spoke at a recent meeting of the Home Economics Issues Seminar.

"I've found that to be successful in politics, a woman must look like a girl, think like a man, act like a woman, and work like a dog."

"The homemaker who takes an active part in politics must be able to separate the issues from the personalities. No matter how much I disagree with the stand a particular man takes on a subject, it is important not to keep grudges. You just can't in politics.

"And I can't stress enough that a homemaker in politics must remain *feminine*! Remember always that you are a woman . . . no matter what your job may be."

Mrs. Bock is a home economics graduate from the State College of Iowa at Cedar Falls. She is presently serving her first term in the Iowa legislature.